

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, and 9 have been amended. Claims 3, 4, 8, 10, and 11 have been canceled. Therefore, claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, and 9 are pending in the application.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 2. Claim 4 has been cancelled. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite for allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. As Applicants have amended claims 1 and 2 and have cancelled claim 4, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claim 11 has been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection with respect to claim 11 moot.

On page 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,732,152 (Lockhart).

Lockhart is directed to a method for generating and distributing mail items. According to Lockhart, the method includes creating a first and second mail file, wherein each of the first and second mail files includes recipient address information. The mail files are transmitted to a mail service computer over a global computer network and printed on a single sheet of media.

Lockhart discloses that the first mail and the second mail are delivered as the surface mail (physical mail). In contrast, the present invention has the feature of sending the electronic message associated with the article to a receiver, as identified by the language of claim 1, for example.

In addition, Lockhart discloses surface mail which is delivered on an appointed date and time. In contrast, according to the present invention, electronic messages associated with the article are sent to a receiver at a time of receiving notification that delivery of the article is completed. Therefore, if the date and time of delivery of the article is changed, the date and

time of delivery of the electronic messages is also changed accordingly. That is, in the present invention, unlike in Lockhart, the electronic message associated with the article can be updated before receiving notification that delivery of the article has been completed, as identified by the language of claim 1, for example.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, and 9 are patentable over the references. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.


If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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